

Letter No. 5
18 November 1960

Dear COMPASS,

1. Re CHALK. For COMPASS' guidance, SLEDGE is forwarding an operational guide so that COMPASS may benefit from seeing the most important factors inherent in this operation. As COMPASS can well imagine, SLEDGE's shop is under considerable pressure from the top echelons here to get this job done well and very soon. Perhaps, most important, is the necessity for COMPASS to expedite his assigned tasks in order to prevent CHALK from lapsing into despair and giving up his daily check of the proposed site. As COMPASS is undoubtedly aware, CHALK has been checking the site for over three (3) months and it is possible that his patience and hopes are at low ebb. In addition, SLEDGE's shop must coordinate operational phase II with Ops Phase I, direct AZTEC to a particular city and brief him--all of which must be closely timed with a projected completion date for Ops Phase I. SLEDGE is not criticizing COMPASS' performance but simply is trying to give COMPASS the feel of the situation here--as would be done in our bull sessions were COMPASS here. Therefore, with regard to Operational Phase I, please give this case COMPASS' priority attention, time, brains, imagination, and whatever else it takes. WHEEL must not lose CHALK. If WHEEL does this one well, not only will the wearing of a feather in our hats feel good, but it can have quite an impact in terms of future staffing.

2. With regard to Operational Phase I, enumerated points 1 and 2 are self-explanatory and COMPASS has the detailed casing requirements of these sites included as attachment to WHEEL Letter No. 1. These requirements (in as much detail as possible) should be forwarded at COMPASS' earliest possible time for study and planning at WHEEL. SLEDGE urges COMPASS to make call and case inside of CHALK site as soon as possible.

3. Point 3 of Ops Phase I pertains to the JIG site (or alternate if COMPASS rejects JIG site). SLEDGE appreciates COMPASS' suggestion (bag and string ploy) for use at JIG. However, SLEDGE and company feel that this plan must be rejected because of the psychological effect it more than likely would have on CHALK; the possibility of a citizen strolling along the Naberezhnaya observing CHALK emplacing the packet and the bag being pulled into COMPASS' window; the possible pinpointing of COMPASS as the recipient, and the proximity of COMPASS' room to the Naberezhnaya. With regard to the JIG wall, COMPASS mentioned that the lights usually go on when COMPASS walks into the yard. Does COMPASS turn them on himself or are they turned on by someone else, or do they burn continually at night? Please examine all possibilities of using the wall or window at JIG (or any other JIG possibilities) on a priority basis. With regard to timing, (if JIG site is used) COMPASS should advise as to which evening hour and day of the week he feels is most practical and secure for both COMPASS and CHALK. Also SLEDGE would appreciate receiving from COMPASS an estimated deadline of when COMPASS believes that he can complete all tasks assigned to COMPASS in Operational Phase I. This is necessary so that WHEEL can have lead time to coordinate AZTEC's movements. If COMPASS honestly feels that JIG drops should not be

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used for security or other reasons, please explain fully the reasons for rejection. WHEEL will abide by COMPASS' decision since he is on the spot and can most accurately gauge the operational situation. If COMPASS rejects the JIG site, then he should, again on a priority basis, locate another drop for CHALK's No. 1 outgoing to WHEEL. Please remember that the reason the wall at JIG was suggested as a site was that, in WHEEL's view, it afforded MAXIMUM SECURITY AND PROTECTION to COMPASS. Therefore, if the JIG site is rejected, COMPASS should keep in mind that his alternate choice should afford maximum security to the unloader (who may be COMPASS).

4. Point 4 of Operational Phase I refers to a drop which COMPASS must locate, sketch and describe so that WHEEL (in letter No. 1) can immediately assign it to CHALK. This will insure a continuity of future commo. In conjunction with this drop, COMPASS should locate a suitable signal site for CHALK to indicate that the drop is loaded and for the unloader to make a counter-signal to assure CHALK that the material has been recovered.

5. Operational Phases II and III are forwarded for COMPASS' information and to round out the total picture of the scope of the operation in its first round.

6. Re dacha area as possible CHALK drop area: WHEEL feels, on the basis of past and current information, that the dacha site and area has little potential for CHALK. It would, of course, take CHALK out of his own locale and possibly expose him as an outsider in a heavily surveilled area. Also the village of Tarasovskaya should not be considered for CHALK since in this small village the residents would immediately recognize him as an outsider and possibly wonder what business brought him to their small village and church. WHEEL will, however, retain and file this drop.

7. Re WHEEL commo to COMPASS and from COMPASS: SLEDGE fully realizes the commo hardships with which COMPASS is confronted and, therefore, previously recommended that, at every secure opportunity, COMPASS refresh his memory with the incoming file held by CHISEL. In addition, to simplify understanding, SLEDGE would prefer to have COMPASS write his letters as succinctly and plainly as possible avoiding any double-talk. SLEDGE has had some initial difficulty in deciphering past correspondence and feels that straight reporting through the secure channel is preferable. Contrarily, if COMPASS is finding difficulty in reading or interpreting WHEEL letters or has any suggestions or criticisms, please let WHEEL know.

8. If SLEDGE and Company can render any support or services of any nature to COMPASS, please do not hesitate to make suggestions.

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9. SLEDGE has just received COMPASS' letter of 13 November in which COMPASS made the external casing of CHALK's drop and signal sites. The report is well done and fills a part of points 1 and 2 of Ops Phase I. Keep up the good work, COMPASS!

With best personal wishes,

SLEDGE

P. S. SLEDGE is aware that this letter is rather long and will necessitate COMPASS' concentration. Therefore, SLEDGE suggests that COMPASS might possibly take the letter to JIG for study in the seclusion of his room and return to CHISEL after careful study. COMPASS, of course, can best make this decision.

Copy - [REDACTED]

1.3(a)(4)

Attachment to WHEEL Letter No 5

OPERATIONAL PHASE I

1. Case CHALK drop site per attachments to Letter No. 1.
(COMPASS)*
2. Case CHALK signal site per attachments to Letter No. 1.
(COMPASS)
3. Locate and/or case JIG site (or alternate) for CHALK's initial
commo to us per attachments to Letter No. 1. (COMPASS)
4. Locate drop and signal site for future CHALK commo. (COMPASS)
(To be assigned in our outgoing No. 1 message.)

*Indicates ACTION.

OPERATIONAL PHASE II

1. Prepare drop packet and message. (HQS)*
2. Coordinate AZTEC's movements with [REDACTED] (HQS)
3. Brief and train AZTEC abroad. (HQS)
4. Deliver packet and dispatch AZTEC. (HQS)

1.3(a)(4)

*Indicates ACTION.

OPERATIONAL PHASE III

1. ATREC to load pre-selected drop sites and make signal. (ATREC)*
2. CHALK to unload drop and make counter signal. (CHALK)
3. CHALK to pass material at JJC or (alternate site.) (CHALK)
4. Unloader to forward materials to HQS. (COMPASS or ?)

*Indicates ACTION.